

Trade Adjustment Assistance For Workers

*Helping Workers whose
Jobs have been Affected by
Foreign Trade*



**DIVISION OF
EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY**

The **Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program** helps workers whose jobs have been hurt by increased foreign trade. TAA offers services to help you retool your skills and get back to work. Any workers who feel that increased foreign trade was a substantial cause of their unemployment or reduction in work can apply.

This publication addresses petitions numbered 80,000 and above. Petitions within this range are based on the “Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011.”

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Benefits Available

The goal of TAA is to get you back to work as soon as possible. If your petition is certified, TAA has many services to help you:

- I. Reemployment Services
- II. Training and Related Expense Reimbursement
- III. Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA), Additional Weekly Benefits
- IV. Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)
- V. Job Search Allowance
- VI. Relocation Allowance
- VII. Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) for Older Workers Wage Supplement

I. Reemployment Services

Your Division of Workforce Development (DWD) Career Center can help you with:

- Job search strategies
- Resumes, cover letters, applications
- Referrals to jobs
- Labor market information
- Interview preparation

II. Training and Related Expense Reimbursement

You can get aid for up to 130 weeks of job training, including:

- On-the-Job Training
- Occupational Training
- Customized Training
- Remedial Training
- Training-related expenses also may be covered:

- Tuition, books, fees, tools, and uniforms
- Travel expenses (if beyond normal commute)
- Subsistence allowance (if training is not available within your commuting area)

Criteria your training program must meet to be approved:

1. Suitable employment is not available for you (your DWD Specialist will match your skill level, salary, and commuting area to jobs listed).
2. You will benefit from training.
3. You meet entry-level education and training program requirements, and have the financial resources to carry you through.
4. Training is reasonably available to you (travel/subsistence).
5. Training is suitable for you and available at a reasonable cost.
6. You can reasonably expect to find employment following completion of your training program.

III. Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) – Additional Weekly Benefits

You may be eligible for additional weeks of benefits after your initial claim for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits is exhausted if you are enrolled or participating in approved full-time training. Under certain conditions the training requirement may be waived.

Waiving training requirement, applicable if:

1. You are in poor health (you must still be able, available, and actively seeking full-time employment to be eligible to receive regular UI or TRA benefits).
2. You are determined eligible for training but the first available enrollment date is delayed (training must begin within 60 days).
3. Training is not available at a reasonable cost or funds are not available under TAA or other federal laws.

You may receive up to 52 weeks of regular UI benefits and TRA benefits combined. It may be 20 of UI and 32 of TRA, or 17 of UI and 35 of TRA, etc. [You must file a weekly certification (claim) and meet eligibility requirements to be paid].

Additional TRA Allowances

If you exhaust your basic 52 weeks, there are additional benefits available if you are in training.

- If you need more time and financial help to complete your training, you can receive up to 65 weeks of additional TRA benefits in a 78 week period (117 weeks total).
- You also may receive 13 more weeks of benefits (130 total) to complete your training, if you meet specific benchmarks.

Break in Training – If you have more than a 30-day break in your TAA training (not counting national and state holidays, and weekends), TRA benefits are not payable. TRA payments will resume when your approved TAA training starts again.

Job Search Requirements – If you complete training or receive a waiver from training, you must actively seek full-time employment to receive basic TRA benefits. The DWD staff will help you through your work search.

IV. Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

You can receive help with your health insurance. The HCTC office will pay 72.5 percent of your health insurance premium – you pay 27.5 percent. To qualify:

- You must be eligible for the TAA program.
- You must have received TRA or UI benefits on any day of the month to qualify for HCTC that month.
- You are eligible for an additional month after ceasing to be an eligible TAA recipient and as such remain eligible for the advanced tax credit for one more month.

If you have questions about the program or the application process, please call toll free 1-866-628-4282.

V. Job Search Allowance

You can receive additional compensation in order to look for a new job if you must commute outside your local area to search for work:

- You must be pre-approved by your DWD Specialist to seek work beyond your normal commuting area.
- 90 percent of the cost of expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage may be refunded to you with a maximum amount of \$1,250.

VI. Relocation Allowance

If you manage to find new employment in a new location, TAA can help you relocate to your new job:

- You must be pre-approved by your DWD Specialist to seek suitable work beyond your normal commuting area (certain deadlines apply – see your specialist).
- You must live 50 miles or more from your new place of work.
- You must have a written offer of employment.
- Your new job must be within the continental United States.
- Payment will be a lump sum equal to three times your average weekly wage (maximum \$1,250).
- You also can receive up to 90 percent of the total cost of the following to the nearest suitable employment opportunity:
 - Cost of meals, lodging, and mileage

- Cost of moving your household goods and personal and family effects (lesser of two estimates)
- Up to two months storage

VII. Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) for Older Workers Wage Supplement

- You may take a job that pays no more than \$50,000 per year, and RTAA may total up to 50 percent of the difference between your old and new wages.
- You must be at least 50 years old.
- Total payments may not exceed \$10,000 over a two year period (whichever of these runs out first).

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

The DWD staff must approve training programs, job search allowances, and relocation allowances in advance.

For more information and help with the TAA Program, contact your local DWD Career Center.

How to Apply

1. Petition for Certification: When a layoff or work reduction occurs, you must file a petition for TAA with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the TAA Coordinator. The following people can file:

- Group of three or more workers or their duly authorized agent (such as an attorney)
- Certified union official or representative
- Official of the employer/firm

You can get a petition and help with completing it from DWD Career Centers (see the list at: www.missouricareersource.com).

2. Determination of Petition: After you file, the USDOL has 40 calendar days to complete its investigation and issue a determination.

3. Individual Entitlement: If certified, everyone covered by the petition wishing to claim benefits must contact his/her Regional Claims Center to file a “Request for Determination of Initial Entitlement to TAA/TRA.”

4. Program Approval: You must be pre-approved for all TAA/TRA services and benefits by your local DWD Specialist.

- You must be enrolled in training or issued a waiver to the training within 26 weeks after the petition certification date or 26 weeks after separation, whichever is later.

5. Weekly Certification (Claim): Every week of training, your instructor must sign your certification (claim) form. If you live outside of Missouri, mail your forms to the address indicated on the

form. If you report to a DWD Career Center, hand deliver or mail your forms to an address listed at www.missouricareersource.com. Click “Locate a Missouri Career Center.”

Contact Information

Missouri Division of Employment Security Regional Claims Centers

Jefferson City.....573-751-9040
Kansas City.....816-889-3101
Springfield.....417-895-6851
St. Louis.....314-340-4950
Outside Local Calling Area .800-320-2519
Fax Number.....573-751-9730

www.mocclaim.mo.gov

Missouri Division of Workforce Development Career Centers

888-728-JOBS

www.missouricareersource.com

U.S. Dept. of Labor

www.doleta.gov/tradeact

For information on Health Coverage Tax Credit

1-866-628-4282

Relay Missouri:

If calling by home phone or
cell phone, dial "711." All other callers
should dial 800-735-2966.

**MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**